

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Sealabration at Año Nuevo State Reserve

Travel into the sand dunes while thousands of elephant seals are ashore to rest, mate, and give birth at the spectacular Año Nuevo State Reserve rookery. **On Saturday, January 25, 2003**, the California State Parks Foundation, the San Mateo Coast Natural History Association (SMCNHA), and California State Parks host **Sealabration**, a special fundraising event to support educational and interpretive programs at Año Nuevo State Reserve. Tickets are available for individuals as well as groups.

Participants will be escorted by docent naturalists in small buses to the rookery, where docent naturalists will lead **special guided walks** amid more than 3,000 elephant seals. **Complimentary lunch** is served in the Visitor Center from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Donation is \$75, of which a portion is tax-deductible.

The day's events will also include a raffle for fabulous prizes, to help raise funds for education at Año Nuevo State Reserve.

- You can make reservations toll free at 866-792-SEAL (7325) (please have Visa or Mastercard credit card information available).

- To pay by check, send your check payable to SMCNHA and send to:

Sealabration 2003
Año Nuevo State Reserve
New Years Creek Rd.
Pescadero, CA 94060

- Space is available for wheelchair users and others with physical limitations.
- You may select one of the following times to arrive:

10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

12:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.

Año Nuevo State Reserve is located on State Route 1, between Santa Cruz and Half Moon Bay, about 1.5 hours south of San Francisco.

Northern elephant seals, once hunted to the brink of extinction for their blubber, have made a large comeback along their Pacific Coastal range. Elephant seals returned to Año Nuevo in the 1960s and began giving birth on the mainland beaches in 1975. Over 1,500 pups were born in the rookery last year. Elephant seals spend much of the year at sea, diving to depths of almost one mile beneath the surface on dives that can last over one hour. Pups quadruple their weight within a month on their diet of rich mother's milk; full-grown males can reach 2.5 tons.

Año Nuevo State Reserve is a protected place for these incredible animals and other wildlife and cultural resources. To find out more visit the Ano Nuevo website at http://www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=523.